

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(FONSI)

MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEES CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
GAMMON SEEPAGE BERM
FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1928, AS AMENDED

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, intends to extend an existing landside seepage berm along the Mississippi River mainline levee. An environmental assessment was prepared because additional seepage problems at Gammon, Arkansas, were not anticipated when the Mississippi River Mainline Levees Enlargement and Seepage Control Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was completed in July 1998. The proposed work is located near Gammon in Crittenden County, Arkansas.

The work consists of extending the existing landside seepage berm for approximately 1.3 miles between levee miles 138/00+00 and 139/20+00 along the Mississippi River mainline levee. Fill material would be obtained from one to two borrow pits located riverside of the levee. If sufficient suitable material is available from the area labeled Borrow Pit 1 on the map, then no other material would be required. However, if this pit does not contain an adequate amount of suitable material, material would be obtained from the area labeled Borrow Pit 2 on the project map. Impacts have been assessed based on the assumption that both pits would be utilized during project construction. Two existing stop log culvert structures would be replaced, and two more stop log culvert structures would be constructed along the seepage berm to provide drainage.

Coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service revealed that the soils within the project area are neither considered prime nor unique cropland. A site visit completed by Memphis District Personnel and correspondence with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that no endangered or threatened species, or critical habitats, were present within the project area. The site visit and correspondence with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Hazardous Waste Division revealed that no known hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste (HTRW) sites are within the project location. Also, no wetlands would be impacted by the project.

In 1995, a cultural resources survey was conducted by Mid-Continental Research Associates. The survey reach was along 3.5 miles of the existing Gammon berm. The proposed project is located within this area. Four archeological sites were recorded, three (3CT327, 3CT326, and 3CT329) of which are historic, postdating 1900 and not considered significant. The fourth site (3CT326) has prehistoric and historic components and is considered potentially significant. It is not located within the project area and therefore, would not be impacted by the proposed project. The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and concerned Federally recognized American Indian tribes were informed of the project. The SHPO responded that no historic properties would be affected by the project. No other comments were received regarding the project. Should deeply buried artifacts or other site indicators be uncovered during construction, the Memphis District Staff Archeologist, Arkansas State Historic

Preservation Office, and Federally recognized tribes will be immediately notified to ensure compliance with all Federal and state laws and regulations.

After review of the documentation of environmental impacts, I have determined that this project is not a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment. Therefore, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required.

Date

Charles O. Smithers, III
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer